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To the attention of: Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
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Telefax from: Lucy C. Weiss
Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
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Serial No.: 09/425,636
Our Reference: 55197US002

Date: October 5, 2001

Total number of pages: 18

Enclosed is an **Amendment** in response to the most recent Office Action for the following patent application (along with a "Terminal Disclaimer Under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.321(b)", a **Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR Section 1.136(a)**, and copies of the Disclaimer and the Petition labeled "Duplicate" for deposit account processing):

Application of: Douglas Quong

Serial Number: 09/425,636

Filed: October 22, 1999

Title: Active Material Within Hydrogel Microbeads

Please transmit the Response to the following Examiner:

Examiner: H. Nguyen

Group Art Unit: 1617

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PATENT
Docket No.: 55197US002SAC
Pey
10/17/01IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Douglas Quong

Serial No.: 09/425,636

Group Art Unit: 1617

Filed: October 22, 1999

Examiner: Nguyen, H.

For: ACTIVE MATERIAL WITHIN HYDROGEL MICROBEADSAMENDMENTCommissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed on May 8, 2001. A petition (under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.136(a)) requesting a two-month extension of the time period for response (from a due date of August 8, 2001, to a due date of October 8, 2001) is enclosed herewith.

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

In the Claims

Kindly amend Claims 1 and 4 to read as follows:

- Sub C1
A1
1. (amended) A method of delivering and releasing active material comprising the steps of:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date shown below:

Date:

October 5, 2001

Signed:

Lucy C. Weiss

Lucy C. Weiss, Reg. No. 32,834